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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/591,450

05/24/2007

Peter Mullejans

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136 7590 12/15/2009

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EXAMINER

CHAPMAN, GINGER T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3761

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/15/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/591,450	Applicant(s) MULLEJANS ET AL.	
	Examiner Ginger T. Chapman	Art Unit 3761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group 1, claims 1-13, drawn to a bag liner comprising an open end having an annular first flange, a first hole for receiving a stoma, ureter or catheter, a first adhesive surface, and a second surface and an outer receiving member comprising a second hole for receiving a stoma, ureter or catheter, and a second flange.

Group 2, claims 14-24, drawn to a bag liner provided with an adhesive and with a release liner, wherein the release liner comprises gripping means.

Group 3, claims 25-27, drawn to an ostomy appliance comprising a base plate having a third hole, an adhesive wafer, a receiving member and a bag liner.

Group 4, claims 1 and 28-31, drawn to a method of applying a receiving member to an inner bag.

2. The inventions listed as Groups 1 through 4 do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

3. 1. Where the group of inventions is claimed in one and the same international application, the requirement for unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression “**special technical features**” shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which **each of the claimed inventions** considered as a whole, **makes over the prior art**. The inventions listed as Groups 1 and 2 do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they do not share a special technical feature. The special technical feature of Group 1 is a liner having an open end having an annular first flange comprising a first hole for receiving a stoma, ureter or catheter and an outer member comprising a second hole for receiving a stoma, ureter or catheter and a second flange; the special technical feature of Group 2 is a bag liner with

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an adhesive and a release liner and the release liner comprises gripping means; the special technical feature of Group 3 is an ostomy appliance base plate and a wafer member configured to be attached to a wearer; the special technical feature of Group 4 is a method of applying a bag liner to a receiving member. Group 1 does not share the special technical feature of Groups 2-4 because, respectively, Group 1 does not require a release liner comprising gripping means; does not require a base plate and wafer; and does not require a method of applying a liner to a receiving member, but instead the bag liner can be used as a stand alone product or as a liner for a surgical fluid basin. Group 2 does not share the special technical feature of Groups 1 and Groups 3-4 because Group 2 does not require, respectively, an open end having an annular first flange comprising a first hole for receiving a stoma, ureter or catheter and does not require an outer receiving member comprising a second hole for receiving a stoma, ureter or catheter and a second flange; does not require a base plate and wafer; does not require being applied to a receiving member because it can be used as a disposable bag for containing and disposal of soiled hygiene articles. Group 3 does not require the special technical feature of Groups 1, 2 or 4 because the base plate and wafer can be used with a conventional ostomy bag that does not have an inner liner and can also be used to secure a catheter or gastroenterology tube to a wearer. Group 4 does not require the special technical features of Groups 1-3 because Group 4 can be used as a teaching or demonstration model and because Groups 1-3 do not have to be applied to each other but can be used as noted *supra*.

The special technical feature of Group 1 does not define a contribution over the prior art for the following reasons: Claim 1 is either obvious or anticipated by any one of the following: US 5,865,819; US 5,785,695 or US 5,591,144, each individually. Accordingly, the special technical feature linking the inventions, a liner, does not provide a contribution over the prior art, and no single general inventive concept exists. Therefore the restriction is appropriate.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

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4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ginger T. Chapman whose telephone number is (571)272-4934. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ginger T Chapman/
Examiner, Art Unit 3761
11/25/09

/Tatyana Zalukaeva/

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3761